



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
5 POST OFFICE SQUARE, SUITE 100  
BOSTON, MA 02109

**DATE:** March 9, 2021

**PREPARED BY:** SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

**CASE #:** OI-BO-2020-ADM-0130

**CROSS REFERENCE #:** COMP-2020-122

**TITLE:** QUESTIONABLE INTERNET USAGE BY EPA EMPLOYEE

**CASE CLOSING REPORT**

Subject(s)	Location	Other Data
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	Boston, MA	N/A

**VIOLATION:**

5 C.F.R. §2635.704 - Use of Government Property

5 C.F.R. §2635.705 - Use of official time

**ALLEGATION:**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Inspector General (OIG), Office of Investigations (OI), Boston, MA received a request (b) (7)(E) regarding an IP address belonging to the EPA, Region 1 (b) (7)(E)

**FINDINGS:**

OI was able to identify the endpoint user to an employee in Region 1. (b) (7)(E)

The examination did not lead investigators at the time of this writing to believe there was a nefarious intent. Keyword searches were also met with negative results.

**DISPOSITION:** Closed

As a result of the findings this investigation will be closed.

**RESTRICTED INFORMATION**

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

DATE: DECEMBER 14, 2020

PREPARED BY: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

CASE #: OI-HQ-2020-ADM-0009

CROSS REFERENCE #:

TITLE: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) GS-13, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL, ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION AGENCY

CASE CLOSING REPORT

Subject(s)	Location	Other Data
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	N/A

**VIOLATION(S):** Administrative/Policy Violation – Misuse of Government Property

**ALLEGATION:** On October 17, 2019, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) referred a complaint to the Office of Professional Responsibility alleging that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) OIG, EPA, misused data for personal use on (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) EPA cellular phone; and, did not provide (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) with an accurate accounting of said data usage when queried as to what (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) data usage was being used for. Specifically, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) referral indicated (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) coordinated with (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and provided a final response to the agency concerning (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) data usage stating: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) informed me that the majority of the data used for the wireless hotspot was directly related to work and assured me that any personal use of the wireless hotspot was de minimus.” Subsequent to providing this response, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) conducted a review of (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) data usage and found:

During a review of the data usage from April 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019, 90.9 GB of data were used by (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) EPA issued cell phone on weekends, holidays, and days in which (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) took leave. This is approximately 88% of the 103 GB of data used during this time period on days in which (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was not working.

**FINDINGS:** (b) (7)(E), (b) (5) The data review confirmed that a large portion of data was used on days that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was not working. Additionally, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) admitted that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) used government device to stream movies for (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), and to “listen to 80s music.” (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) relayed that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was under the impression that the agency used “unlimited data plans” and so (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) believed there would be no impact to the agency.

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(b) (5), (b) (7)(C), (b) (b) seemed genuine and very remorseful while making (b) (5), (b) statements, regarding (b) (5), (b) use of (b) (5), (b) government issued device.

**DISPOSITION:** On October [REDACTED] 2020, a Letter of Suspension was issued to [REDACTED] for misuse of [REDACTED] government issued device. The administrative remedy prescribed a two day suspension [REDACTED] Based upon the aforementioned, there are no remaining investigative steps and this investigation is recommended for closure with no further action. Should new information become available, the EPA-OIG retains the right to re-open the investigation.



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
1301 CONSTITUTION AVENUE, NW  
WASHINGTON DC 20004

**DATE:** February 16, 2021

**PREPARED BY:** Special Agent (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**CASE #:** OI-HQ-2021-CFD-0032

**CROSS REFERENCE #:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**TITLE:** Allegations of Improper Hiring

**CASE CLOSING REPORT**

Subject(s)	Location	Other Data
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	Washington, D.C.	Conversion of a Political Appointee to a Career Employee

**POTENTIAL VIOLATION:**

Burrowing Prevention Act

**ALLEGATION:**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Inspector General received a hotline complaint regarding a hiring concern in the (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). It was reported that the (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) EPA was being pressured to select a current Schedule "C" employee non-competitively into a supervisory career position. Further, the complainant stated the "candidate" (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and possibly violate the "anti-burrowing in" provisions.

OI received a separate allegation via email from (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (3)

EPA. The email stated (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (3)

**FINDINGS:**

**ALLEGATION 1**

OI interviewed (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), who advised (b) (6) learned of (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) interest to convert from a political appointee to a career employee from Ryan Jackson (Mr.

Jackson), former Chief of Staff, EPA. According to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) would like to remain with the EPA so (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) reviewed a vacancy announcement on "USAJOBS" and noticed (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) position (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) that aligned with (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) experience and qualifications and communicated interest to Mr. Jackson. After speaking with Mr. Jackson and (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) stated (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) to obtain information on the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) conversion process for (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). According to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (6) wanted to steer clear of any political influence. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Andrew Wheeler (Mr. Wheeler), former EPA Administrator, spoke to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) stating "I heard you are helping (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) with the process" and to let (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) know if (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) could do anything to help. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) added (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) wanted to give (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) EPA, a heads up that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) identified a position (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) in which (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was interested.

OI interviewed (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), EPA. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (2) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (2), (b) (5)

OI interviewed (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), EPA. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) advised OI that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) learned of a proposal to convert (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) from a political appointee to a permanent employee from (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), EPA. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) stated (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (2), (b) (5). However, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) did forward the package to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), EPA. According to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (2) made some edits and returned the package to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) for approval. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (2)

OI asked (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) to describe what happened after (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) signed the package. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) stated that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and could forward the package to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) at OPM. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) it was not unusual for agencies to send packages to OPM when there was a dispute within the agencies. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) OPM must still follow their processes and procedures.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) advised OI that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) spoke with (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) OPM, to discuss what requirements EPA needed to follow during this process and to obtain something in writing to provide to EPA career staff that

had concerns. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) advised the case agent (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) believed (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) package would not be submitted to OPM because (b) (6) did not believe OPM would review the package in time. According to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Mr. Wheeler made the decision not to proceed with sending (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) conversion package to OPM for approval.

OI contacted OPM-OIG-OI to arrange an interview with (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). OPM-OIG-OI advised, the case agent that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C).

## **ALLEGATION 2**

OI asked (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) if (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was aware of any employee(s) that expressed concerns about violating the law, and, if so, did any of those employees receive any disciplinary action or were reassigned. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (2)

According to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (2)

According to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (2)

**DISPOSITION:** Inconclusive; Closed  
Inconclusive; Closed

Based upon the aforementioned information, the case agent recommends a referral to the EPA, Office of Audits (OA) or Office of Evaluation (OE) to address the following: (b) (6), (b) (5), (b) (7)(C)

The case agent's recommendation to refer this matter to OE was not approved by OI management.

There are no further investigative steps to be taken and the case agent was instructed to close this case.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

DATE: September 13, 2021

PREPARED BY: SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

CASE #: OI-SE-2017-CFR-0025

CROSS REFERENCE #:

TITLE: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), FORMER EPA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

CASE CLOSING REPORT

Subject(s)	Location	Other Data
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	N/A

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(A), (b) (5), (b) (7)(E)

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This matter was referred to the Administration Investigative Directorate, EPA, OIG

(b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(E)

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